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Haliburton County's Independent Newspaper



The Nutcracker plays to sold-out crowds and rave reviews

Jessica Mooney is held aloft by sisters Daryl (left) and Kestrel Woodley. See story and photos on page 14. **Photo by Terrance Gavan.**

MPP Scott: we need action now

Asks Premier to visit, see economic hardship for himself

By Stephen Patrick

At last week's Moose FM radiothon to raise money for the food bank, host Rick Lowes reminded local MPP Laurie Scott that according to social services organizations, 42 percent of Haliburton County's children live at or below the poverty line. Scott repeated her party's position that Ontario's overall economic performance was distinctly sub-par, and that the government of Premier Dalton McGuinty should immediately cancel the HST on home heating oil and electricity.

"I would be pleased to arrange such a visit and would appreciate hearing from you at your earliest opportunity."

"I know that cancelling those taxes aren't the whole solution," she told *The Highlander* on Tuesday. But every little bit helps, and we

don't see much action from this government that will help people who are struggling in these hard times.

"We need action, now. It's getting harder and harder for people to put food on the table, pay their bills and so on. And then Rick said, 'well, Dalton McGuinty should come up here and see for himself, people are hurting', and I said sure, I'll invite him, so we wrote up a letter, which I faxed right away."

The letter says in part, "During the course of my interview with Moose FM – I was asked on air about the possibility of inviting you to join me in a visit to Haliburton County to meet with local residents, to discuss their economic challenges and the impact that escalating hydro bills have had on their ability to support their families.

"I would be pleased to arrange such a visit and would appreciate hearing from you at your earliest opportunity."

At press time, Premier McGuinty had not responded.

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Bicroft water may need \$82k fix

The following is a summary of the Highlands East municipal council meeting of Dec 13

By Jerry Grozelle

\$15,000 Trillium Grant for Lloyd Watson Centre

The kitchen at the Lloyd Watson Community Centre will get a complete overhaul, thanks in large part to the Ontario Trillium Foundation. The Foundation approved a grant application of \$15,000, which will be put towards the installation of a commercial-quality dishwasher and a double-oven, stove and grill. In addition, several community groups, led by the Wilberforce Agricultural Society, have committed funding in the amount of \$3,900 to the project.

"Merry Christmas everybody; people are giving us money," said Councilor Joan Barton, who prepared the application with the help of the municipality and a coalition of community groups. Barton told council that the community groups were notified of the Trillium Grant

approval and that she expects most of their commitments will be honoured sometime this month. As of the meeting, \$1,300 — a third of the pledges — had already been received.

The municipality has also committed to \$4,795 of in-kind work, which will include renovations to the kitchen to accommodate the new appliances. Barton warned that, "We may have to do more construction than we originally anticipated in order to put in an additional door."

She explained that the door would allow "essentially clean-food-out, dirty-dish-in entry and exits to the kitchen."

Barton said there may be a request to council for additional funding for the project, depending on the engineering report and cost of installing the additional door.

It was noted that the centre's kitchen had not had any major updates in at least 20 years. The kitchen is vital to the centre, the major local venue for community events.

Bicroft water problems

Problems with the Bicroft community water supply could cost Highlands East as much as \$82,000, according to a report from International Water Supply Ltd.

The filter in the main community well is partially blocked, resulting in some turbidity issues, Environment and Property Manager Glen Covert explained. IWS has recommended drilling a new well and rehabilitating the current well and filter system.

Council agreed that Covert and Reeve Dave Burton will investigate the situation and report back to council with recommendations.

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Santa visits Stanhope firefighters

By Will Jones



Two year old Ryan Reesor tells Santa what he wants for Christmas.

As the snow and wind buffeted the Stanhope Firefighters Community Hall on Saturday December 10, inside faces were aglow and festive cheer was aplenty: Santa was here, visiting the children of Stanhope.

In a tradition that has gone on for more than 30 years, firefighters hosted a Christmas party for local families. There were fun and games, a piñata, a sing-along with Jake the guitar man and of course the main attraction, Santa Claus.

The Stanhope Fire Fighters Association has raised funds throughout the year to put on the event, which was free to all, although

folks were asked to bring a donation for the food bank. Some 70 people attended and the kids had a whale of a time, from playing twister and musical chairs, to lining up to take a swing at the piñata. They got hands-on as the percussion section with talented kids' entertainer Jake Differ and, finally, received a gift from Santa in return for promising to be good at least until Christmas Eve.

Don Kidd, President of the Association, said, "It's great to be able to host an event where everyone has so much fun. It's a long-standing tradition and one that we enjoy raising money for, knowing how happy it makes these kids."

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Dysart et al

Village condo racing skywards

By Will Jones

Rising from the shores of Head Lake in double-quick time, the Granite Cove condominium development is already becoming a local landmark. But while the building's impact on the vista and the quality of the new apartments are being eagerly anticipated, there can be no denying that the current buzz is about the speed at which the development is rising.

Contractor Greystone Construction officially broke ground on the project on September 10. Just three months later the foundations have been laid, basement parking levels constructed, entrance level built and the structural concrete elements of the first full floor of apartments are being completed.

Darren Miles, Greystone's General Superintendent and man in charge on site, smiles when asked about the speed of the work to date. "ICF [insulated concrete form] is a great way to build," he says. "It is innovative but simple, and the tricks we've learned from previous projects make us able to work really quickly."

Along with Greystone's experience using ICF (the firm has built eight previous projects this way), the design of the building is geared towards a quick build with few, if any, interruptions. The concrete walls require no temporary formwork, as would conventional, poured-concrete walls; the insulated, interlocking sections are stacked together and braced, before concrete is poured straight into them to create a rigid, load-bearing structure. The fact that the walls have a thick layer of insulation already attached also means that concrete can be poured in temperatures as low as minus 35.

"The ICF design enables us to work in extreme conditions," says Miles. "It's only minus 40 and frostbitten fingers that stop the job!"

Once the ICF sections are in place, Greystone pours the concrete for a complete storey of walls in a single day: that's 180 square metres of concrete (24 truckloads), filling 305 linear metres of wall. Then, it's only a matter of time



Floor sections being lifted off the truck.

before the next floor can be dropped into place.

And that is exactly what happens. Articulated trucks roll up, laden with lengths of pre-cast, reinforced concrete floor; a crane lifts them straight off and up onto the building, where they are eased into place by a specialist team of contractors. The floor for an entire storey is completed in —

you guessed it — a single day.

"We like to get on with the job," says Miles. "I like to get the dirty work out of the way as soon as possible, especially in winter. It enables me to get a couple of stories completed and closed-in from the elements quickly, so that I can get the trades people inside in the warm. It makes working better for everyone."

Greystone aims to have the building properly watertight, with all the windows and doors in, by the end of March. This sounds like a tall order but Miles is confident. "We'll work all winter, so long as the temperature doesn't drop below minus 35, and if it snows, which I know it will, we'll just shovel it out and carry on."

Miles's work rate is being watched by keen eyes, though. He often has a gallery of observers standing on the site perimeter, many of whom will be moving into the condominiums as soon as they are complete.

"Yeah, I'm getting to know some of the folks who will be living in the development," laughs Miles. "They want to know all about the construction; they keep me on my toes, I'll tell you!"

Realty broker Peter Brady, of Trophy Property, is also in the firing line when it comes to updates from home purchasers. He says he is happy to be able to report that all is going to plan and that the development is selling fast. "We have firm agreements on the majority of the condos. People have paid deposits and are eager to see their new homes completed. There are only a few units left, and with the building rising so quickly, I'm sure they'll sell soon too."

The project is the first major build in Haliburton Village for a number of years. It is moving fast, and both the contractor and prospective new homeowners are looking forward to its completion next summer. Look out for it as you drive by, and keep in the loop via updates in *The Highlander*.

Highland Street to get Pay and Display

By Will Jones

Following the initial discussion surrounding the fate of the existing parking meters at their November 14 meeting, the councillors of Dysart et al have made a decision. "We resolve to go ahead and install pay and display machines at intervals along the street," said Reeve Murray Fearrey, following a second round of debate on the topic.

Clerk Cheryl Coulson had explained that the present meters would require a major upgrade to accommodate new \$1 and \$2 coins that will be in circulation early in 2012. "The maintenance and upgrade required will cost around \$550 per meter, totalling around \$20,000," she said.

Director of Public Works Brian Nicholson had also made it clear that the meters in their present positions cause a headache for snow clearance, but that moving them closer to the buildings would also present problems. "You'll have issues in certain areas as to where you place them: near the

building or out at the property line. They'll look terrible, too."

The cost of installing new pay-and-display machines is considerably higher, at \$40 to \$50,000 for the downtown area. The units can, however, be leased-to-own if the municipality prefers to avoid paying all at once.

Reeve Fearrey addressed the question of why the streets need meters at all. "For those who cite places such as Bancroft and Bobcageon as towns that have no need for meters on their main streets, I say they have five or six blocks of downtown, while we only have one.

We have to keep a flow of vehicles using the parking in the village to benefit our retailers. Store owners can't afford to have one car parked in front of their premises all day."

His words were backed by Councilor Andrea Roberts, who said, "We need to move forward with this and the BIA is in favour of meters. There are plenty of places to park in

town if you don't want to pay. I say we go with the pay and display machines to keep the streetscape as clean and tidy as possible."

"When do we have to make a decision?" asked Walt McKechnie, Ward Five Councilor. "It's important that we get this right and not create an eyesore. In a perfect world I'd say no meters, but that's not going to happen, and so I think it would be a step backwards to have the existing meters littering the new streetscape."

Nicholson informed the meeting that a decision needed to be made quickly so as not to delay the tendering process in spring and subsequent streetscape improvement works.

"How many are in favour of pay and display?" asked the Reeve. A general show of hands revealed everyone, apart from Ward Three Councilor Steve Pogue, was agreed upon the new machines. Pogue said, "No meters has always been my preference, but I can see I won't change your minds."

With that, Fearrey passed around the resolution to go with pay and display machines. The decision allows Nicholson to press forward with his tender; all that remains to be decided is whether to opt for solar or electrically-powered pay and display units.

Walt McKechnie
Ward Five Councilor

"In a perfect world, I'd say no meters, but that's not going to happen."

Tell us your Opinion

Send your letters to the editor to letters@haliburtonhighlander.ca

Editorial opinion



Hard times in Haliburton County

Time for a vision, or time to turtle?

By Stephen Patrick

Dysart Council this week debated the pros and cons of putting some money into fixing the fences around the baseball diamond in Haliburton Village (see Will Jones's report on page 9).

The old diamond, situated opposite the Dysart Arena and behind the municipal offices, is apparently used only once a week. Councilors had various suggestions, but seemingly little enthusiasm either for spending any money, or for finding another site.

It was left to Brian Nicholson, Director of Public Works, to suggest that perhaps the discussion should wait until some overall plan for recreation had been created. Councilor Dennis Casey agreed, and in doing so brought up the dreaded "Vision" word, as in "until we have a clear vision of where we stand", etc.

Well, now, let's consider this vision thing, particularly as it relates to Parks and Recreation, which is part of Public Works. But first, allow me a short digression.

In the 1940s and 1950s, most Ontario small towns employed full-time recreation directors. Haliburton's Glen Dart fulfilled this role until his untimely death in the early 1950s. I knew one such RD very well – he was the father of a life-long friend – who held the same position in Pembroke and Renfrew back then.

This RD not only ran the department, including the ball teams, the hockey teams, the Santa Claus parade and the facilities, but he also coached the Junior B Lumber Kings in Pembroke, and was an unofficial advocate for the town's youth, a mentor and counselor. Part of his job was to encourage youngsters not only to fly down the ice at left wing, but to make sure they kept up their grades. In fact, he took it upon himself to organize athletic scholarships in the States for many adolescents who, without his encouragement, would have had considerable fewer opportunities as adults.

I realize that this was before much television, before the Internet, Facebook and iPhones. But small town Ontario had, yes, the vision and the commitment, despite tiny budgets, to realize that these investments of staff, equipment and infrastructure were essential to the quality of community life and to the future of their young people.

So what's the vision for parks and recreation in Dysart et al? All we hear is that the times are hard, there's no money, people are hurting. All of which is undoubtedly true. Still, our son plays rep hockey in venues that are palatial compared to any of the three Haliburton arenas. Gravenhurst, Parry Sound, and in particular the marble monument to federal Conservative MPs Tony Clement and John Baird in Huntsville, all received millions of dollars over the past few years. Hard times? Not in that riding.

Perhaps, G20 largesse aside, this might be the time for imaginative, long-range thinking about recreational facilities, of what we want to offer not just our youth, but all our citizens in this health and fitness-obsessed age.

What's wrong with some constructive dreaming, of the kind, say, that brought the senior games to the county? Some might say that the swimming pool initiative provides enough of a dream to last several lifetimes, and certainly that vision could turn out to be impractical. But still, at least it's got a conversation going.

What a tonic it might be for Dysart Council to embrace some truly visionary thinking, the kind that built the new hospitals in Haliburton and Minden, the kind that brought Fleming College here, the kind that small towns used to have, when they were able to see beyond the budget, beyond the current numbers and dream some dreams.

Because you know what, Virginia? Once in a while, they do come true.



Get a map

By Bram Lebo

How embarrassing — that was my first thought on seeing Laurie Scott's CHEX interview last week. Scott is publicly asking Dalton McGuinty for help for the county, citing statistics that put 42 percent of our children at or below the poverty line.

Poverty is supposed to be somewhere else: it conjures images of Africans futilely hoeing barren land; of barefoot children in Alabama. But that concept of poverty looks very 1970s now — today, poverty is here, in the "tar-paper shacks" cited by Point

in Time; in babies sleeping in snowsuits because the heat's been turned off to save money for food.

The county is blessed with an outstanding cadre of volunteers and social services workers. But if Haliburton County is a house, social services and non-profits are there to patch the cracks — not to provide the beams and walls holding the place up. Those beams and walls have been deteriorating for many years.

They have been deteriorating to a point where the structure is failing. It's not just jobs — it's everything from childhood nutrition to seniors support, from preventing domestic violence to ensuring kids have warm clothes for the winter. You can't pull yourself up by your bootstraps when you haven't got shoes; systemic doesn't begin to cover the magnitude of what we're dealing with.

It's ironic that it falls to Laurie Scott to issue a cry for help — she of the party that seeks to eviscerate unions in their last stand to protect the few remaining jobs that offer decent wages and benefits. But we'll take Laurie's newfound conversion to social justice, and back her 100 percent in demanding relief from an indifferent Queens Park. At least she has the gumption to make a demand.

Not so our local politicians, though to be fair they do not have the same incentives of party politics as Ms Scott. Nevertheless, we've had enough musing about engaging stakeholders, streamlining, innovating and collaborating (not to mention the inanity of discussions about baseball diamonds and feral cat colonies). What we need — as Stephen rightly points out this week — is a vision.

But first you have to understand what a vision is: a picture of how you want your world, business or, in this case, county, to be. In our context, it is simply a map, showing the locations of future retirement communities and light manufacturing facilities; there's a miniature CT scanner on that map, possibly even a swimming pool. A map will show in living colour how we're going to reduce poverty; it will, quite simply, tell us where we're going.

So how about this for a vision: in 2012, Haliburton County will create this map. It will find the right partners willing to build individual pieces, then send a delegation to Queens Park to demand — and get — sufficient funds to implement enough of its vision to create 100 jobs.

The Province spends billions on incentives for job creation and new businesses, and we deserve our fair share. But we have to know what we want — and ask for it.

Fanciful? A wise man once said, you'll never get where you're going unless you know where you're going.

Next year, let's try to figure out where we're going.

Obsessively, Compulsively

By Terrance Gavan

Our very own pedantic publisher of pithy prose popped a sly little disclaimer called Merrily, Merrily on our op-ed page last week. I told him, as we were leaving late from production last Wednesday, that the header should read Obsessively, Compulsively — he laughed and asked if we should change it.

For the record, Merrily, Merrily was Bram's proactive proviso regarding a special insert that we called Shop Local. Which, of course, is not grammatically correct: it should be Shop Locally. We got letters, as I had predicted.

Had we not printed Obsessively, Compulsively — err, Merrily Verily — we would never have received letters. People would simply have regarded it as a cutesy homage to Steven Jobs's iconic Apple ad campaign, Think Different.

So we got letters. Of course we got letters.

We got letters from pedants, which is okay. I mean, we asked for it didn't we? Or Bram did.

And I'm sorry there Bobby, but if you start a letter to the editor with, "I'm not a grammar Nazi," you protest too much. A grammar Nazi? Holy hyperbole Batman!

I won't sleep for the next two weeks. I'm a blogger and a columnist, and my dreams are now peppered with a very scary Col. Klink look-alike, draped in Gestapo leather with a riding crop and leather gloves. I dream that he's hovering above me, as I doggedly blog happily into my Asus laptop, ready to interrogate.

Lighten up. It's English, not the formula for the big bang.

Give us your opinion –
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Letters to the Editor

Shop Local “a sight to behold”

Dear Editor:

As I settled in to read the latest edition of The Highlander, the Shop Local section was a sight to behold! The time, effort and indeed the space for such a feature was like a gift to the community. The A to Z section was especially creative. It is such a joy to see your newspaper striking up the band for the local merchants, as we all know we need to keep as much business in town as possible.

I would also like to add that I find The Highlander a refreshing read and encourage you to keep up the good work.

Best regards
Tim Hagarty

A journey to Wilberforce – to shop!

Dear Editor:

Your reminder last week to all of the benefits of shopping locally whenever possible was timely and hopefully helpful. I would like to share an insight that I have just experienced.

Some folks travel south; some travel elsewhere; some might feel they are missing out because they can’t “travel afar” for whatever reasons. However, yesterday I made the trip from my home in Minden to Agnew’s General Store in Wilberforce specifically to purchase the CD “Home for the Holidays” by Edgar Thatcher. (They play this song on Canoe FM and it is beautiful.)

This might not be considered “traveling” in the usual sense, but I experienced the same sense of being “on a holiday” as when I am in Kentucky, Arizona, etc. Agnew’s, like many businesses in the Highlands, is unique and special. Moreover, since there are only a few of these CD’s left with this beautiful song that talks about the Highlands and the little church on the Essonville line, I was doubly appreciative.

Aren’t we fortunate that shopping locally can provide wonderful experiences that many have to “travel afar” to have?

Bernie Davis, Minden, ON

Rosebush clarifies proposals

Dear Editor:

Many thanks for the excellent coverage of our Board meeting [in the Dec 1 issue] and for informing the community of the CE LHIN’s recent approval of our CT and Palliative proposals.

This information should help inform the community of HHHS’ efforts to improve health care in our community and also build the capacity of our local health care services.

Regarding the projected costs for these initiatives, the \$1.5M figure to acquire a CT unit is correct but the \$2.5M price attributed to the Palliative Room is incorrect.

These are two separate projects. The Palliative Room will cost upwards to \$500K to build a suitable addition that will contain an additional palliative bed and additional family space with a separate kitchen. We will fortunately also receive additional operational funding to support the second hospice/palliative bed.

Our goal is to create a very pleasant, distinct hospice/palliative environment that is not only supported by the hospital but also by the SIRCH Hospice Team. We consider this a collaborative partnership to meet the needs of our

community.

Regarding the CT initiative, we have two options that we are considering. One is to build an addition at the back of the hospital. A hospital grade, one-storey addition will cost approximately \$1M to build and a two storey addition would come in at approximately \$2.5M. If we are able to redevelop some existing space, these costs will not be required but we are very short on space in Haliburton. With further information the HHHS Board will decide on the best option for our organization to pursue, keeping in mind current and future community needs.

While HHHS will be able to pay for the operation of the second palliative bed with increased funding, the CT operations will be paid for through reduced patient transfer costs.

I hope this additional information clears up any misconceptions that people may have about these two important initiatives.

Thank you,
Paul Rosebush, President and CEO
Haliburton Highlands Health Services

“The market was driven out of town by council.”

Dear Editor:

This is a classic story of the short-sighted actions by this Dysart et al council, prompted by a complaint by one business. In the first year (some 3 years ago) the farmers created the farmers market in Haliburton, and the farmers were happy with the location, in Haliburton.

But the market was driven out of town by council, triggered by one greedy and shortsighted complaint by a shop owner. Council levied fees that were unsustainable by the farmers. Therefore the farmers moved to a location where they were welcome and successful, as a matter of fact very successful.

Then it dawned on council that traffic is what makes

Haliburton businesses survive. Now, two years later, the coin dropped and they are begging the farmers to return and bring back the much needed traffic. Everyone has forgotten that one complaint caused many businesses to suffer.

Council is doing it again. It recently voted to stop stuffing the tax bill mailings with the Arts calendar, a calendar designed to drive traffic into Haliburton. This action by council was prompted again by the complaint of one businessman.

Someone wrote a protest song some four or five decades ago that ended “...[oh when] will they ever learn?”

Armin Weber, Eagle Lake

Letters continued on page 7

The Outsider — I dream of a full English

By Will Jones

And so it was back to the pig: the lovely, lovely pork. I can’t say that I forgot about Pigley, as I like to call him, while wrangling with bath tubs and leaky pipes, because I ate pork chops, pork roasts, all things pig as often as possible during my plumbing nightmares. I ate pork to keep my strength up but I also ate it because my lovingly-reared pig tastes so damn good.

But what came next was new to me. It was a journey of discovery, just as bringing my pig home in the rental car had been; just as butchering Pigley in the garage had been. It was making bacon and sausages: a long wished-for dream come true, no less.

You see, life in Londonium was fun in many ways, but at the back of my mind was a hankering, a yearning to grow and process my own food. And, the Holy Grail as far as I was concerned, was being able to make breakfast from produce that I’d reared.

Now, I may have achieved that by planting oats in my pigeon poop-filled window box and hoping for the best, but that would have been copping out somewhat. I wanted a full English, as I’d call it: bacon, eggs, sausage, tomatoes, beans and a large fat slice of fried bread. Difficult to achieve in a two-bed apartment, even for the most creative of enthusiastic urban foodies, I’m sure you’ll agree.

However life has changed for me, as you kind readers know. In what seems like the blink of an eye I’ve gone from

commuting in rush hour traffic to communing with nature; I’ve swapped pin striped suit for plaid shirt (I have quite a collection, I might add); and, I’ve forgone restaurant dining (on all but special occasions) in favour of hooking, harvesting and hand-rearing my own food.

But back to my full English breakfast. My lovely wife makes bread from wheat we helped harvest and the meat — the pork to make sausages and bacon — was until recently sitting in our freezer.

And so it came time to make our bangers. I’m going to let you into a secret here: on a series of covert missions that the FBI would be proud of (make of that what you will), we sneakily stole the knowledge of local sausage-maker extraordinaire, Norm Weber. Please don’t tell him, but what we did was pop into his store and chat light-heartedly about all manner of things, slowly, slowly bringing the topic around to sausage-making. Norm would wax lyrical about this trickiest of arts as we listened. The wife and I would nod conspiratorially to each other as we left, our heads buzzing with newfound sausage mixes or stuffing techniques.

Strangely, as Norm patted me on the back and sent me on my way for the umpteenth time, he smiled broadly. I couldn’t work out what was making him so happy, as I was the one gleaning a lifetime’s experience. I pondered it as I opened the trunk of the car and unloaded the five packs of salami, a dozen pepperettes, smoked cheese, fish and pork, two steaks and a vintage fishing lure; my regular order.

With Norm’s wisdom ringing in our ears (and a refrigerator filled to the brim with his smoked goods) we unleashed the hog stuffer on our pork for the first time last week. The horrific scene of sausage meat squirting from the automated stuffer in an uncontrollable jet did not materialise, thankfully. My steady stuffing technique and my wife’s deft handling of the sausage skins proved a winning combination: out came the minced meat, filling the long skin and making pert, pink pork sausages. They were a triumph for us and a sight to behold for anyone who admires a well-stuffed banger. For other folk, they probably looked like, well, sausages.

Ohhh but the taste. I’m salivating as I write this, my dream of a home-produced full English is a dream less distant. What was, ironically, totally unobtainable for me in England is coming to fruition in Canada.

I have the bread. I have the sausages (we made bacon, too) and tomatoes I’ve grown. Beans will be planted in the garden next year. Eggs — I’m gonna wait until spring to start making my own eggs. I imagine Canadian winters and chickens don’t mix, not unless you like them frozen, with their feathers still on!



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Letters to the editor continued

Swimming pool a “feather-brain idea”

Dear Editor:

I don't know where this featherbrain idea of an indoor swimming pool came from but nobody in these times and in their right mind can build a decent swimming pool for \$500,000. Not a public, good-sized swimming pool with all the bells and whistles, all the tweets and toggles and twitters. Anyone who did any serious checking would soon find out the utter fiction that our county could afford one.

Anyone seriously interested in such a project should first check out the military archives and find the blueprints to learn the wherewithal of constructing a state-of-the-art swimming pool and recreation centre in Arctic conditions. Like the one I experienced in Chibougamau about 500 miles due north of Montreal.

There we were folks, only 150 of us at a small base with a large swimming pool/recreation centre. All indoors, where you could partake in virtually any sport under one roof in 50-below weather (not everybody swims!). All free too. It was bloody grand; I didn't want to leave. A snack bar was situated between the pool and gymnasium with a radio station and a few meeting rooms nearby. The pool was half-size Olympic and the gym was standard school-size, with several basketball courts. In those days, the Federal government [had] deep pockets!

Even in 1965 we had standards. The pool required highly-qualified life guards at all times when it was open. Likewise, the gym needed properly-trained sports people in attendance. The pool had to be maintained and inspected too, proper safety and water chemicals had to be right – so we needed people around who knew how to do this – recreation specialists, they were called. By law, these folks have to be there or the place simply could not be opened.

The cost? A good ten million bucks, likely much more for a top-of-the-line, multi-purpose indoor facility. With \$500,000, one might cover some of the caretaker and maintenance costs for a year or two. Even charging admission to the place would not come close to paying the cost of liability insurance.

Reality check: do the math! We are not Toronto or New York City. There is no possible way Haliburton County, with its 15,000 permanent populace and a smaller tax base, could support such an undertaking. Even if the site suddenly came into existence free of charge, the upkeep would be too horrendous and heavy for our meager public purse.

Besides, there are far greater priorities...

Fast Eddie Burke
Minden Hills

No grammar Nazis here

Dear Editor:

I'm not a grammar Nazi, but I disagree with your decision to use the phrase 'Shop Local' instead of 'Shop Locally'. Adverbs not only describe how (as in your example 'merrily'), but also where, and if local doesn't describe 'where', what does?

Our language changes over time, which is why many people have a difficult time with Shakespearean English. One of the roles of newspapers is to moderate the rate of change by maintaining standardized uses, one of the things grammar guidelines do.

Bob Smith
Ingoldsby

Grammar is highly contentious

Dear Editor:

Congratulations to all those responsible for The Highlander! As a long-time visitor to the Haliburton area I read it avidly online in Toronto, and cheer for its success.

Be warned however: grammar and word usage can be highly contentious, especially with old pedants like me. Your argument for “shop local” rather than “shop locally” is apt. Shakespeare chose his words on the basis of effect, common usage, and/or rhyme at will.

But, “less” and “fewer” are not interchangeable. In that regard, your edition 10 exhortation to “shop local” gets 50 out of 100. Both “less tax revenue” and “less money” are correct;

both “one less family” and “buy one less (item)” are not. “Less” refers to quantity, and “fewer” refers to number.

For example: There is less water in Head Lake this summer, but fewer accidents on Main St. Try interchanging “less” and “fewer”.

Like “its” and “it's”, it's an all too common error in common usage. Your paper is better than common.

Of course, your readers understood perfectly what you wrote, and I hope that they follow your advice.


Keep up the good work, sir.

Merry Christmas to all Highlanders,

Rob Iveson

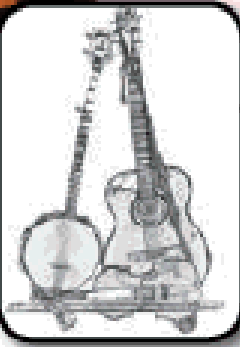
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Highlander arts



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State of the Arts

By Victoria Ward

A TV and some rubber



Ranting is all the rage suddenly. Last week my fellow columnist Will Jones took out his chipper British rage on our plumbing standards. While laughing, I did sympathize with his 'fed-upness'. Why don't we have easy access to the pipes behind our bathtubs?

Social media is maggoty (as my Newf pals would say) with rants. But the rant that takes the cake has to go to notorious art collecting millionaire, Charles Saatchi.

Saatchi is much better known in England, where it seems he's personally sponsored the last 20 years of contemporary art. His patronage of the British art scene rejuvenated the public's interest in living artists; he has made stars of young, angry artists and every trendy, urban art going and buying scene in the Western Hemisphere reflects Saatchi's influence in one way or another. Because of Saatchi, a cow submerged in formaldehyde (Google it!) came to represent art-making in the dying days of the 20th century.

Turn the page to the 21st century and suddenly the backlash has begun. Last week, Saatchi wrote a column in the Guardian UK newspaper, lashing out at what he considered a "vulgar and shallow" art world. His vitriol left no one unscathed: he attacked the buyers who park their yachts in Venice for the Biennale, the critics who lavish praise on terrible work, curators who fill galleries with empty, regurgitated conceptual work because they can't tell a good painter from a bad one, and the artists themselves for not doing their job.

Talk about calling the kettle black. It was Saatchi who created this world in the first place. In Canada it's no different — in the last 10 years I've attended art shows across this country that have left me despondent. Perhaps you have had this experience: you walk into a gallery and there isn't anything in it. Or maybe just a TV and some rubber.

Or there is a 20-page thesis in plastic that you need to read, to understand why there are wires hanging from the ceiling with spoons attached to them. Or you walk into a gallery and the exhibit features a remote-controlled car with a camera on it that you can operate, but it is out of batteries, and the volunteer working at the gallery doesn't know how to get it going.

Yes, I too, an artist, go into these shows and think, I don't get it. And believe me, I am responsible for creating lots of work that has forced audiences to connect the dots. I worked in alternative theatre for years, huddled in dark studios creating indecipherable work for audiences of perhaps 10 people. I know about calculated confusion.

But my complaint has never had any impact. If anything, people would move away from me as I spoke, so as to avoid being slimed by my vitriol directed at this era's version of the emperor's new clothes. Having someone as high profile as Saatchi essentially coming to my rescue is oddly reassuring; even though I kind of saw him for years as the perpetrator, his public redemption is gratifying.

And redemption it is. Who else has the understanding of the commercial, public and private role of the arts in our time? A very showy, narcissistic, vain, outrageously wealthy maniac like Saatchi, that's who. We don't have an equivalent in Canada; our enormously wealthy types tend to not be exhibitionists. Our art scenes are less spectacular but no less zealously hip. Saatchi has redefined himself in one stroke: a defender of the authentic.

Rants happen when the 'water has boiled,' and we are at a tipping point in art. We are ready to get back to experiencing art that directs itself to the heart, and that includes a public which actually cares. It's time to leave the yacht and the attitude at home.

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Dysart et al

Baseball diamond may get struck out

By Will Jones

Dysart council is wondering if the Haliburton baseball diamond is pitching its weight. At the December 12 meeting, questions were asked as to whether the field was used enough, and if it should be moved to make room for extra parking at the arena.

Following reports showing the poor condition of the fencing surrounding the field, councillors have been actively debating the facility, its use and the cost of maintaining it. Director of Public Works, Brian Nicholson, advised council that

Susan Norcross

Ward Four Councillor

“Do we have to have one [a diamond] in town? There’s one in West Guilford, couldn’t teams share it?”

estimates for installing new fencing around the diamond had come in at \$15,000 for commercial grade fencing or \$10,500 for residential grade. “And that doesn’t include removal of the old fencing,” said Nicholson. “I’m bringing this up now because it’s a considerable cost and I know the budget will be up for discussion soon.”

Ward Four Councillor, Susan

Norcross, asked, “Do we have to have one in town? There’s one in West Guildford, couldn’t teams share it?”

Clerk Cheryl Coulson stated that the diamond is currently used only on Monday evenings during the summer. Ward One Councillor, Andrea Roberts, referred to space at the fish hatchery, asking if the large, open field currently used as a soccer pitch could double as a baseball diamond.

Nicholson interjected, stating, “If we are going to take the time and expense to move the baseball diamond, we need to look at the bigger picture. We need to consider how it will fit into our future parks and recreation plans, with regards to other recreation upgrades or improvement projects; how we accommodate parking at any new venue; access to roads and other similar concerns.”

Ward Two Councillor, Dennis Casey, agreed. “If we’re going to do something with it then we have to do it right. We should not throw money at it until we have a clear vision of where we stand and where we want it to go.”

The baseball diamond’s future remains uncertain.



Promoting tourism in Haliburton County

Frank Vismeg, Managing Director of the Pinestone Resort, with Grace Sammut (L) and Sheila Maxwell (R) of Resorts of Ontario, at the 7th Annual Ontario Tourism Summit in Hamilton recently. Over 500 delegates attended the conference and trade show to hear about trends and best practices in Ontario tourism. Presenters included the Ontario Deputy Minister of Tourism & Culture, Steve Davidson.

Dysart residents complain about road conditions

By Will Jones

Dan Trautman brought a delegation representing the ratepayers of Haliburton-by-the-Lake (across Head Lake, opposite Haliburton Village) to council at its December 12 meeting. His concern: the poor condition of roads in his subdivision.

Trautman put it to the council that at a residents’ meeting two years ago, his councilor had told those gathered that the roads in the subdivision were scheduled to be paved in 2011 according to the Dysart’s Roads Needs Study. This year, when asking about the proposed works, he had been told that they would not be carried out in 2011 after all.

“We have become very frustrated at the lack of maintenance and the way in which any work done within our subdivision is being handled,” said Trautman. “The original subdivision agreement called for paved roads, and yet we ended up with chip-rock and tar as pavement. Today, our roads have huge holes in them and large areas without pavement.

“When work is done it’s not done well. Trucks come by,

week after week, filling in potholes, only for the patches to break up again. When the road is ploughed in winter, that also digs up the repairs and we have to start all over again.

“I really think it should be fixed. I pay \$4,800 in taxes per year for my home and my neighbour pays \$5,000. Lots of

money comes out of this subdivision and we’d like our roads improved.”

Reeve Murray Fearrey listened to Trautman, then stated that he’d take into consideration the request with the proviso that there could be no guarantee of works being carried out soon.

“Your points are good and we know that your roads are bad, and there are worse, which we’re not proud of. However circumstances change, and although your road was slated for improvement in the Roads Needs Study, when a bridge goes out or a road fails we have to find funds from somewhere

and some of the scheduled works have to come off that list.

“I am told by Brian [Nicholson, Director of Public Works] that your road is on the list for next year, though, and so we will take your request forward and consider it in the upcoming budget.”

Dan Trautman

Haliburton-By-The-Lake resident

“I pay \$4,800 in taxes per year and my neighbour pays \$5,000. Lots of money comes out of this subdivision and we’d like our roads improved.”

New laptops for council chambers

By Will Jones

Following a recommendation by the Environment and Green Energy Committee, Dysart Council has decided to purchase seven new laptops for use in council chambers, at a cost of around \$2,800.

Councillors debated the purchase at the December 12 meeting, where Ward Four Councillor, Susan Norcross, expressed her doubts about utilising public funds on new computers in the current financial climate.

“I just don’t think we should spend money on laptops at this time; we’ll be criticised,” she said.

However Councillor Dennis Casey, Chair of the Environment and Green Energy Committee, as well as Clerk Cheryl Coulson and Chief Administrative Officer, Tamara Wilbee were firmly in favour of the purchase.

Wilbee stated, “You must not think of it as spending on more computers, but instead look at the savings that will be made in work efficiency and on photocopying. It’s a current expenditure to save in the future.” She went on to explain that \$1,600 had been spent on photocopier maintenance in the past two years and that much more than that was in the budget each year for printing-paper.

Coulson added that the laptops would not be for councillors’ use only. “We will ensure that everyone who uses council chambers is able to access the laptops,” she said. “In our drive to use less paper and become more environmentally conscious, we are adopting the Civic Web Filepro digital agenda packages that are financed by the county. But, if we go to this digital agenda protocol, we need to ensure that all committee members have access to a laptop during meetings.”

The formal recommendation presented to Council by the Environment and Green Energy Committee lists 29 people, including members of the Housing and Business Development Committee, the Museum Board, Property Standards Committee and Committee of Adjustment, who would be able to use the laptops. Only seven out of the 29 committee members are councillors.

Coulson continued her reasons, stating, “Internal training is also an area where they will be very useful. Currently we have to send staff to remote locations for training. However, the same courses are often available via webinar, and so could be held here if we had these laptops. It would make training easier and save on expenses, too.”

Councillor Casey agreed with his colleagues and reemphasised that the laptops would not be for councillors’ use only, but be made available as a resource to all committees and staff.

“I still don’t get it,” said Norcross. “I see what goes on at committees and I don’t really see why they need them.”

With the arguments laid out before him, Ward Five Councillor, Walt McKechnie, then stepped into the fray. “I’m the least connected of any of you, and if you’d presented me this resolution with the computers costing \$5,000 each I’d have said you were out of your minds. But, as the cost is less than \$3,000 for seven laptops, then I think we should go ahead with it. Maybe it’s even time for me to get connected.”

Council took a vote and resolved to buy the laptops.

At the same meeting, Council also decided to replace the current lamps in the council chambers’ pot lights with long-lasting, low-energy LED bulbs.

Tamara Wilbee

Chief Administrative Officer

“It’s a current expenditure that will save us money in the future”

Tell us your Opinion

Send your letters to the editor to letters@haliburtonhighlander.ca

Around the county

Another term for Fearrey



Murray Fearrey
County Warden

By Jerry Grozelle

County council opted for experience and a proven track record in choosing its warden for 2012.

Dysart Reeve Murray Fearrey will remain at the helm of county council for a second consecutive term.

Fearrey was acclaimed as Haliburton County Warden at a special meeting — the Warden's inauguration — Tuesday evening

at the county council chambers in Minden. Former Warden and Highlands East Reeve, Dave Burton, nominated Fearrey, and Algonquin Highlands Deputy Reeve Liz Danielsen seconded the nomination. No other nominations were submitted.

The fragile and uncertain economy was a recurring theme in both Burton's and Fearrey's speeches. Burton said, with the uncertain economic climate, Fearrey's experience and proven record of strong leadership made him the right choice for the county warden's position.

In his acceptance speech, Fearrey said Haliburton County has a lot in common with Ontario's north. He appealed to MPP Laurie Scott, who was in attendance at the meeting, to petition the provincial government to include this county in the FedNOR program.

Council members showed their confidence in Fearrey by choosing him unanimously to lead the county through the next year. Councilor Carol Moffatt noted that most members are relatively new, and the consensus was that Fearrey was the logical choice. "It's not like there's one or two new people on council," said Moffatt after the inauguration. "There are enough brand new people at county that I think it's important to have someone with Murray's experience and stability to carry it through."



Agents give \$1200 to Minden and Haliburton food banks

Individual realtors comprising the Century 21 Granite Realty Group, with independent offices in Haliburton and Minden, donated \$600 from each office to the food banks in their respective towns. Broker-of-record and co-owner Andrew Hodgson said it was one more example of Century 21's agents' dedication to their communities and to the excellent work done by the food banks.

Shown above are, left to right, Haliburton agents Gary Moffatt, Karen Nimigon, Tom Ecclestone, co-owner Anne Hodgson, agent Margie Prestwich, Four Cs Director Nick Biljetina, co-owner Hodgson, Agents Dagmar Boettcher, Elizabeth Thompson, Mark Dennys, Deb Deremo and Lee Gauthier.

Counting for the birds

Submitted by Dennis Barry

For the last two years, heavy snows and bitterly cold temperatures have chased many lingering birds south by mid-December. Ground feeders such as sparrows and juncos, as well as gulls, depart soon after the first significant snowfall. Large lakes such as Gull and Kashagawigamog often remain open until early January, but in 2009 and 2010 even they froze over the day before the count.

On years with these lakes still unfrozen, we can find a dozen or more species of water-dependent birds within the count circle. Surprisingly, the Haliburton County count often has the highest number of common loons of any count in Ontario, even those on the Great Lakes. A record nine were found in 1999. Unusual wintering waterfowl recorded on past counts include the Harlequin duck, Barrow's goldeneye, ruddy duck, double-crested cormorant, red-throated loon and pied-billed, horned and red-necked grebes.

After two years of extremely poor seed crops on local trees, area birders were excited to see a reasonably good crop of cones on balsam fir and white spruce. Spirits rose with the prospect of large numbers of winter finches at local feeders.

So far, we've been disappointed. Bumper crops of cones on trees in the Hudson's Bay lowlands, and north of Lake Superior, may have lured crossbills and siskins elsewhere. Purple finches often winter here when balsam fir cones are plentiful, but most seem to have left the county early.

But don't despair, there are some birds around: not many blue jays migrated south this year; Chickadees and both nuthatches are about in good numbers; Algonquin Park feeders are already hosting evening grosbeaks and occasional sightings of pine grosbeaks, common redpolls and white-winged crossbills are reported in the park. People providing niger seed have goldfinches coming to visit. If you stock your feeders with fresh sunflower and niger seed, spread some millet or cracked corn on the ground, and hang up hunks of suet, you will be rewarded with feathered visitors as the season progresses.

Don't forget to tally the birds in your neighbourhood and send us the results, so your birds can be part of the worldwide survey. Last year 62,624 observers recorded a record 61,359,451 birds of 2,250 species on 2,215 counts, mostly in Canada, the United States and Latin America. The Christmas Bird Count circle is 15 miles across, extending from Kinmount and Moore Falls in the south, to Mountain Lake in the north; and from Bob Lake in the west, to Lochlin and Irondale in the east.

To report the count of birds at your feeder, phone 705-286-1189 between 5 and 7pm on December 17, or phone Ed (457-3018) or Thom (457-9110) on December 18. Or you can email your results to Dennis Barry at dbarry@interlinks.net, Ed Poropat at ed.barb@sympatico.ca, or Thom Lambert at singing.dog@sympatico.ca. Information you help to collect here in winter is used to help plan ways to assist birds in trouble everywhere.

Species not seen by anyone on December 17, but found on December 14-20, will be recorded as Count Week birds. We hope you're able to join us and help make the 43rd Christmas Bird Count in Haliburton County the best ever.

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Senior highlanders



By Penny Brown

Aging Well surviving the holidays on a budget

Dear Penny,

Living on a fixed income is not easy. My wife and I have stayed where we are to keep costs down, but at this time of year, it seems our pension is gone long before the month is up. And we still have gifts to buy for everyone. Last year we put everything on our VISA but it took so long to pay it down we don't want to do that again. What do you suggest?

Feeling Pinched

Dear Feeling Pinched,

I know how hard it is to stretch a dollar these days and it's unlikely it will get easier in the foreseeable future. That said, I'm glad to hear you've decided not to buy gifts on credit. While you may enjoy the act of giving, the pain of paying is rarely worth it.

I've always been a believer in creative gift giving. I honestly feel — and think others do too — that when a gift has been well thought out, or made by hand, it is more meaningful. I know it is to me, so yes, I have a number of suggestions. Please keep in mind that these suggestions are just the bare bones. Let your own imagination carry you wherever it may. Since you don't have a lot of time left, you'll need to make some decisions quickly. But here are a number of ideas you might consider. Most will cost very little in terms of dollars spent and any of these gifts from the heart will convey your

genuine good wishes for the holidays.

Hand-knitted socks, slippers or hats. Anything you or your wife can knit up quickly will be much loved by the lucky person who receives it. If you don't knit, you can buy hats at the dollar store and add colorful pom-poms you make out of yarn. They're easy and quick, and the craft store will show you how to do it if you can't find directions on the Internet.

If one of you sews, **aprons are a hot item this year.** A terrific apron can be whipped up in little more than an hour. Use any scraps you have to add a dash of whimsy and keep down the price. For men's aprons, oil cloth or plastic (the kind used for table cloths) can be cut into shape in a matter of minutes. Use inexpensive rope or manly ribbon for the ties.

Home baked **cookies or muffins** are always a wonderful gift. Nutty chocolate bark is a real treat that can be made in huge batches and broken up into small gifts tucked into bags or boxes. If you can afford it, use almonds. If not, peanuts are fine. Sprinkle the nuts with vegetable oil and toast them lightly. Then add the nuts to a pot of melted chocolate. Spread the mess on a cookie sheet covered with wax paper and let set for an hour. Break into bite-sized pieces and assemble into gift packages.

Offer your time. All you need is a holiday card—homemade is perfect—and a note promising afternoon tea at your house or theirs. Of course, it needn't be tea. If you've got

friends with children, give them a gift of three hours. Tell them you'll baby sit at a time of their choosing.

Start a **lending library tradition.** Choose a book you love from your own collection and wrap it with a note of explanation. You expect a used book in return for yours—the beginning of a lovely custom.

Dinner at the recipient's home: they shop, you cook and clean up. What could be nicer than that? Or two free **pick-ups and delivery**—no questions asked. Whether a friend needs help with shopping or getting home after a few too many, make your offer valid for the next 12 months.

Christmas tree cookies—the kind you hang on the tree—are a personal and thoughtful gift. Shortbread or gingerbread work best. Decorate gaily. Get fasteners from the craft store or make your own original fasteners from coloured paper clips.

A **wreath of branches** collected from right outside your door makes a spectacular present. A **lottery ticket** is inexpensive and comes with big wishes implied. Or **decorated soaps**—buy inexpensive coloured soaps at the dollar store and pretty them up with beads you'll find there too. Decorated soaps are shockingly expensive to buy but amazingly inexpensive to make yourself.

Readers, if you have any other questions—about your mobility, your comfort, or just about getting through your day more safely and easily, write to me at penny@haliburtonhighlander.ca.

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Highlander family

Ho Ho, Oh No Surviving your family over the holidays

By Ian Shulman, Psychologist

The Christmas holidays are one of my favourite times of year, mostly because it's when my wife and children and I spend a few days at the family cottage, together with my parents, my siblings, their spouses and their children. We laugh, play games, eat and have a lot of fun together.

However in an interesting paradox, I often struggle with the Christmas holidays for that very reason: it can be maddening to have all fourteen of us living under one roof, competing for hot water in the shower, cooking in the same kitchen, and sharing what feels like a small space (but only at that time of year!). The human brain can make family relationships tricky to manage.

Family history, replayed

Throughout a lifetime, each person's brain creates and continually adds to 'working models' of the people and things encountered in that life. This is part of our basic life-support system, in that it enables the brain to make decisions quickly and efficiently by comparing new information to what is already known. In this way, we can react immediately and avoid the hassles and perils of having to re-learn every time we encounter something.

Basically, it's a huge shortcut that the brain uses to save

time, conserve energy and to survive a little bit longer. Consider how dangerous it might be if we had to stop and consciously think through what it might mean for us every time we came across a patch of ice on the sidewalk or a car that didn't look like it was slowing down in the intersection.

This process happens each moment of every day, including those times when we are with family. Take the example of a family member entering a room looking upset because he was thinking about a troubling issue at work. Unable to truly know what is going on in that person's mind, the brains of all others in the room who notice his demeanor will instantly begin to form their own ideas of what it signifies and why it is happening.

Then, subconsciously, they will consult their internal working models of that family member and, in milliseconds, bring up an assortment of related thoughts and memories of other times and reasons that he was upset. Their brains will also make projections about what is likely to happen next, and activate very real sensations of physical and emotional arousal in their respective bodies. All of these experiences happen automatically, creating instantaneous interpretations of the look and influencing what each of those family members does next.

"Practice taking the time to simply notice and observe your own reactions to the things that happen around and within you."

In this way, old history is brought forward into the present and families can suddenly find themselves running through the same old arguments, without really understanding how or why it is happening.

Avoiding automatic reactions

One trick to avoiding such quagmires is to practice taking the time to simply notice and observe your own reactions to the things that happen around and within you. What is the chatter occurring in your own mind as you read this article? Is your attention focused on the present moment, or are you thinking about things from your past? How are you breathing right now? What are you doing with your body?

Developing this skill can enable us to separate ourselves a bit from our own experiences. Although the process is automatic, and we cannot stop the body from reacting, learning how to see what it is doing from a greater distance gives us the chance to make more conscious choices about how we might actually want to respond to those people who are closest to us.

And isn't that what the holidays are really about?

Dr. Ian Shulman is a clinical psychologist who practices in Oakville, Ontario and vacations in the Haliburton Highlands.

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By Terrance Gavan

*The Nutcracker – Heritage Ballet
 Director – Julie Barban
 Northern Lights Pavilion Dec 10-11*

This year's production of Nutcracker lit up the stage of Haliburton's Northern Lights Performing Arts Pavilion on the weekend. But even more important than that, it lit up the audience.

The Nutcracker played to standing-room-only crowds on Saturday evening and Sunday afternoon. We have seen this production in past years, but each Christmas season the production seems to expand its uniquely embroidered envelope. That's thanks to the efforts of the ballet's director, Julie Barban, of course. But the ballet would never be possible

without the dedicated young dancers who populate the stage.

This year's bravura and boffo performance owes its success to the dancers of the Heritage Ballet. They absolutely nailed it, right to the scuffed boards on the Pavilion's stage. And lest we forget, The Nutcracker would never come off without the most intrinsic part of the performance: the fans, who keep coming back year after year; and the parents of those devilishly handsome young soldiers and winsome and lovely young ballerinas.

Give yourselves a hand Haliburton for coming, paying your admission and giving these kids the thrill of a packed house. Kudos to the volunteers as well. You're all part of the puzzle that sews seamlessly the parts of this Highlands patchwork quilt.

For more pictures visit www.haliburtonhighlander.ca

Sports news



The Red Hawks took time to pose for a team photo after their 1-0 victory over Brother Andre, last year's OFSAA Triple A champions. Photo by Peter Elia.

Hawks win gold at Maxwell Christmas Tourney

By Terrance Gavan

Last Thursday and Friday, the young, small and cat's-paw quick Red Hawks won Gold at Whitby's Iroquois Park Sports Centre, at Maxwell Mustangs Christmas Tourney, perhaps the most prestigious tournament of the year.

The Oshawa Tourney boasts 32 teams and some of the best high school hockey in Ontario. The Red Hawks are now, by definition, contenders. And there is a great gaping chasm between contender and under construction: contender carries with it a commensurate upgrade in 'pressure.'

But the Hawks seem equal to the task this year.

In the final game against the preemptive favorites, Brother Andre – the reigning OFSAA Triple A champions – the "rebuilding Hawks" skated to a 0-0 tie in regulation. Then, just 14 seconds into the OT, Jordan Howe took a pass from Brett Yake and scored in the three-on-three to give the Hawks a pivotal 1-0 win and the gold medal.

Howe also knocked down the winner in the three-on-three elimination semi-final qualifier. The Hawks cruised to the elimination round by placing first in the modified round-robin.

Hawks beat Senator O'Connor 6-0 in their first game last Thursday, and followed that up with an 11-0 drubbing of Henry Street High in the afternoon contest. They followed those wins up with a 4-0 win over tourney host Maxwell Heights, early on Friday morning.

"They [Maxwell Mustangs] played the toughest game against us," said Coach Ron Yake on Monday afternoon. "The game was at 8 am and it was the start of a very busy day for the boys."

That win against Maxwell placed them in the qualification

round as the top seed on the basis of their 3-0 record and the incredible 21-0 goals for and against record. "That really turned some heads," chuckled Yake. "Both our goalies, Andy (Elia) and Zach (Harrison) played well in the opening round. And really, all our players came out really strong and the scoring was split evenly, and we actually had four different scorers in that last 4-0 game."

"The record placed us first in our pool of eight teams, but we had a nice draw and didn't play any of the top teams in that pool."

Coach Yake and assistant Bruce Griffith must be credited with this phenomenal string of victories – the Hawks are also undefeated in Kawartha League play – but Yake tends to gravitate toward another theory.

"I think the secret to our success is the energy and good puck movement the guys bring to every game," says Yake.

The early game on Friday was followed by a qualifier against North Hastings from Bancroft. "North Hastings were third in their pool and they went to OFSAA last year," said Yake. "They have a lot of returning guys and they have a bigger team and a more senior team than we have. It was a strategic match and the game went back and forth. We played well, we had to adjust to their trap, but the boys responded and we won 4-2 with an empty netter."

And here's where the tourney got interesting. From that pool of qualifiers, the field was whittled to six teams. Hal High was ranked first and gave them a bye into the final round of elimination contests. The qualifiers were shortened, five-minute three-on-three contests; with 32 teams in two days, one has to allow for some out-of-the-box thinking.

"We were in a pool with five other teams, and we were seeded number one, giving us a bye," explained Yake.

"We played the winner of the first three-on-three game, St Theresa's of Belleville."

"We played five minutes of three-on-three and we were winning 2-1, but they scored to tie it 2-2. It went to overtime — three-on-three for one minute."

And that's when Jordan Howe made the first of his two game-winning stretches.

"Jordan took a pass from Zach Boice and beat the Belleville goalie," said Yake. "That put us into the gold medal game against Brother Andre. They had already won a tournament in Stouffville and they are the defending OFSAA triple-A champs. We told the guys what was at stake and they went out and gave it their all. Andy (Elia) played very well — best game I've seen him play in two years."

"It was back and forth. They had four power plays and we had two. Both teams had some great chances and their goalie was great. We did a great job penalty-killing we had some good opportunities to score. It was a chess match. Brother Andre is well-coached and the game ended 0-0."

That's when Howe and Brett Yake conjured some magic.

"We got the puck on the opening face-off, and Brett got the puck and found Jordan," smiled Yake. "Jordan had a half stride on the defenseman and he made a great power move."

"The veterans showed the way and the other guys played really hard. It was a great team effort. Jordan was the hero of the day and deserved it. It's the first time a Kawartha school has won that tourney. And yes, it's very exciting."

At the same time, Yake does not want the kids to come out of this with swelled heads or a lofty perspective.

"We'll try to convince them that there's a lot of season left."

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Sports news

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Sam Tallman. Photo by Terrance Gavan.

Hawks edge TASS and still undefeated

Tallman scores twice to lead Hal High to 2-1 win

By Terrance Gavan

Lightning in a bottle — that was the superb, twin-line, tape-to-tape laser that went from Julia Fedeski's stick to Sam Tallman's blade in a bat's blink. The Dysart Barn hook-up caught the visiting Thomas A Stewart defensemen flat-footed and mired in mud, and that's not a good place to be when 'The Tallman Express' is crossing your blue line in full stride.

Tallman finished the play in style, beating TASS Griffins goaltender Makala Albert with a nifty pop in the third period of the most hotly-contested game we've seen to date. The eventual game-winning tally at 9:31 of the third put the Hawks up 2-1 and they were able to ride the superb goaltending of young Connor Marsden for the remainder of the game.

Tallman scored the tying goal in the second frame on a peek-a-boo setup from Erin Little.

Coach Dan Marsden was pretty happy to see the tall, rangy and rugged centre come up with such a big game, exactly when they needed it. "Sam played very well today," said Marsden. "She's one of the keys, and yes, it was a nice two-line set-up and Julia's pass caught her in a

nice spot."

Griffins forward, Nicole Webb, scored the first goal of the game in the opening frame. The comeback win leaves the young Hawks varsity team at 3-0 on the season. But from here on in it gets interesting.

"There's four teams that have a lot of parity," said Marsden. "St Pete's will be the team to beat and we'll have a look at them when we go to Lake Placid because they'll be there too."

The girls leave for Lake Placid today for a three day tourney at the iconic hockey town. After that, the team hops on the bus for the remainder of their schedule.

"We'll play Weldon and Adam Scott and then we'll finish up with St Pete's in our last game of the season," said Marsden. Yes folks, the Kawartha women's hockey league does not believe in stretching out a season, apparently.

The Hawks play at Adam Scott on Thursday Dec 22, at IE Weldon on Jan 11 and at St Peter's on Jan 12.

Three tough road games to end the season.

For pictorial and the post-game video interview, go to www.haliburtonhighlander.ca

Tell us about your sports events – email
gav@haliburtonhighlander.ca

Sports news

Wrestlers golden at Kenner Zondervan and Toth on top

With Files from Paul Klose

Liz Toth and Zane Zondervan are twin towers of wrestling power.

With success comes responsibility. Thus, Zondervan, Toth and their prodigious talents will garner more notice as the season progresses; and their leadership roles will necessarily be enlarged.

These are good things, by the way.

The Red Hawks wrestling squad is smaller this year than in the past. Thus key senior wrestlers will be called upon to provide some mentoring, along with coaches Dan Fockler and Paul Klose.

Bringing home gold in an opening tourney is a pretty solid segue into the long and grueling wrestling season. At the Kenner Collegiate tournament on Nov 30, veteran grappler Zondervan's placed first in his 77 kg class and Liz Toth went undefeated to score a gold medal performance in the 64 kg weight class.

Fifteen Hal High wrestlers competed at the tournament, which hosted over 250 wrestlers from the COSSA region.

Both Klose and Fockler were ecstatic about the overall results. These guys are tough graders, so a smile and a nod from the two long-time mentors speaks volumes for this group's output.

"We had a fantastic start to the competitive season at Kenner Collegiate," said Klose. "We're [he and Fockler] looking forward to continued success at next week's tournament at Quinte Secondary School in Belleville. We are pleased with the results early in the season."

Individual Results

Gold – Zane Zondervan, Liz Toth
Silver – Bailey Walker, Jenn Woolcott, Lily Coneybeare, Keith Burley
Bronze – Nichole Honderich, Maia O'Sullivan, Cody Cox
Fourth Place – Jake Kidd

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Sports opinion

Pardon the Eruption By Terrance Gavan

Bettman's CTE disclaimer pure pap



By Terrance Gavan

Whistling past the graveyard: it's what morons do to stave off their irrational fear of zombies, bats, vampires and loopy voodoo rituals. It's become a metaphoric and pejorative descriptor for moribund complacency.

Shortly after the New York Times presented one of the most comprehensive studies of

NHL fighting and its attendant ramifications for enforcers — in light of the astounding discovery of advanced chronic traumatic encephalopathy (CTE) in 28-year-old enforcer Derek Boogaard — we got this Sweet Georgia Brown warble from NHL commissioner Gary Bettman.

"I think in this whole area, there is probably entirely too much speculation and rumors and the like on something that is simply a tragedy," Bettman said recently, via NHL.com. "With respect to what Boston University might find on CTE, they're still looking at a very limited database and in those particular cases there is no control element, because you have to look at everything that went on in the person's life before you make a judgment on what a brain may show when you open it up."

God bless the hawk-beaked king of bleak.

So one presumes that if we dig deep into the Boogaard files, we might find that he had a peculiar penchant for hitting himself over the head with a cricket bat? Or that Mr. Boogaard played six years of high school football without a helmet? Or that he liked to butt heads with mountain goats in the off-season?

Because Boston University doctors know that CTE is caused by blunt force trauma to the noggin. Period. You do not contract CTE from sitting on an infected toilet seat.

So let's dissect, contrast and compare.

Bettman's the feller charged with the care and control of his product. And he's supposed to protect his product — the players. Apparently, Bettman, Colie Campbell and the league's board of governors don't give a whistle about the cog that turns the wheel, or the gentle noodles of certain low-skilled members of the tribe, who we now know are risking their lives to indulge in the sweet science of bare knuckle fisticuffs.

John L. Sullivan fought and won the last sanctioned bare-knuckle fight in 1889, against Jake Kilrain. Know why pro boxing banned it? Because they knew someone was going to die. That was a pretty good reason to stop it, way back at the end of the 1800s. We didn't have MRI machines back then, but apparently we had more sense than the NHL's board of governors.

Boogaard was the subject of a recent Boston University autopsy. BU researches have the bells and whistles that didn't exist at the turn of the century. They look at the fried noodles of a lot of athletes involved in professional sports, and they agree with what pro boxing has long known: bare knuckles to the head cause damage.

Time Magazine reported recently that, "Boogaard got into nearly 200 scuffles in his pro career and incurred multiple concussions; for the last few years of his life, he battled substance abuse. In a postmortem analysis of his brain, a Boston University lab diagnosed Boogaard with CTE, a degenerative brain disease found only in people who have suffered repeated head trauma. Symptoms of CTE include depression, memory loss and problems with impulse control." Shhh! Don't tell Bettman.

"Our fans tell us that they like the level of physicality in our game, and for some people it's an issue but it's not as big an issue in terms of fans and people in the game to the extent that other people suggest it is," Bettman said on NHL.com. "Maybe it is [dangerous] and maybe it's not. You don't know that for a fact and it's something we continue to monitor. The level of concussions from fighting is not rising, it's constant, so it's not an increasing problem."

Hah!

Once upon a time, The Guardian reports, "Philip Morris, the world's biggest cigarette company, launched a pro-active campaign to undermine the scientific case against second-hand smoke, highlighting what it labeled as 'junk science'. Its strategy was best summed up in a letter written in 1993 by Ellen Merlo, senior vice-president of corporate affairs, to her chief executive at Philip Morris: "It is our objective to prevent states and cities, as well as businesses, from passive-smoking bans," she wrote.

Now, we are not going to compare and contrast these suspiciously similar strategies. We have run out of room. Go whistle.

gav@haliburtonhighlander.ca and twitter.com/terrancegavan

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Around the county

Christmas Cops to fill cruisers with food

By Terrance Gavan

Next time you get stopped by the RIDE patrol, save a little love for the investigating officer holding the flashlight. He's just the messenger.

We present this PSA (public service announcement) because the local constabulary do a lot more for this community than keep crazy people off the roads at this time of year.

We just received a Christmas present by email here at The Highlander.

"Officers from the Haliburton Highlands Detachment of the Ontario Provincial Police will be once again seeking the assistance of the public to help the area food banks," says the release. "The annual Fill a Cruiser campaign will be occurring in Haliburton and Minden over the next

couple of weeks."

As part of this initiative, officers will be visiting local grocery stores to accept donations of non-perishable food items. The Fill a Cruiser campaign will begin on Thursday, Dec 15 in Haliburton. The cruiser will be appearing at Park's Foodland in the morning and Todd's Independent in the afternoon. And on Monday, Dec 19, in Minden, the food patrol will be at Dollo's Foodland in the morning and Easton's Valumart in the afternoon.

"The caring nature of this community is reflected in its support for the OPP's Fill a Cruiser Campaign," says acting detachment Commander, Staff Sgt Mike Reynolds.

At the end of the campaign, all of the food will be taken to the local food banks to help with their Christmas needs.

OPP check over 800 vehicles in Christmas RIDE

By Terrance Gavan

The OPPs RIDE (Reduce Impaired Driving Everywhere) program is a popular topic at Christmas parties, Legions and local curling clubs at this time of year.

Is it working? You bet your Santa's stocking and that new pair of socks it is, folks.

My only paean to partying comes by way of the Haliburton Curling Club and I can vouchsafe without exaggeration that people are thinking before drinking, more this year than ever before.

I see a large number of curlers stopping at one beer, and an even larger number imbibing ginger ale or no-alcohol beer at the Haliburton Curling Club.

I think we can generally agree that the highly visible RIDE program is the major reason for this change. Scare tactics? Of course. But high visibility means less risk on the roads, especially in this season. With kids and young families on the road, is it really worth getting into an unguided missile this Christmas?

A recent press release from the OPP's Sandy Adams explains: "Impaired driving continues to be the leading

cause of criminal death in Canada. As of mid-November, 40 people have died in alcohol-related collisions on OPP-patrolled roads and highways, compared to 75 this same time last year (2010). While the number is down significantly this year, even one alcohol-related death is one too many; motorists need to be more proactive in eliminating these preventable fatalities altogether, according to the OPP."

The report specifies that officers have checked 826 vehicles since Dec 1. "The stops have resulted in three Highway Traffic Act warnings. Six ATVs have also been checked."

The OPP sets up RIDE programs at various times of the day and in various locations every day of the year, not just at Christmas time.

"Year after year, our Festive RIDE campaign proves effective in taking impaired drivers off our roads," says Supt. Don Bell, Commander of the Highway Safety Division. "If you're drinking, come up with a plan, such as taking a cab, a bus or a designated driver. Don't drink and drive, don't let those who are drinking drive, and be sure to report those who do."

Woodland recipes

By Will Jones

In this, the second of our regular feature that unearths recipes from the woods — seasonal delights of the delicious kind. Hunter and Haliburtonian Ron Perrin Senior gives up the secrets of his No Peek Stew.

It's a deceptively simple dish, but one that has taken the chill off the bones and warmed the heart of many an ice fisherman, including myself. And, having tasted it on more than one occasion, I can safely pronounce it delicious.

Ron's classic version uses moose as the main ingredient, although he says that you can substitute beef or venison if the desire takes you. The recipe below feeds four, but Ron usually makes enough to feed at least 14!

No Peek Stew

Ingredients

1lb moose meat (hind quarter or shoulder)
1 can of creamed mushroom soup
1 can of mushroom pieces
1 package of dried onion soup
1 bay leaf
1 cup of red wine

Cut up the meat into bite size pieces and put into an ovenproof pot with a lid. Add all of the other ingredients to the pot and give a stir. Cover and cook at 300 degrees Fahrenheit for three hours — and DO NOT PEEK!

Serve over rice or noodles. A well-dressed Caesar salad is a good accompaniment. Eat a large plateful. Sit back, lick lips and thank Mr Perrin.

Haliburton Rotary's Christmas party



Giving back to the community is the sentinel drumbeat of Haliburton Rotary. They proved that again last Friday night at the Dysart Arena by hosting a grand evening for kids and families.

The evening started with a one-hour free skate, followed by a shootout contest and ending with a superb free dinner of pizza, hot chocolate and cookies.

The evening ended with the arrival of Santa Claus.

Thanks to all of the Rotary volunteers who made this fabulous night possible.

The Voice of Haliburton County



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Highlander Storm

Storm Peewee AE and A's split weekend games

The Highland Storm Peewee AE team traveled to Huntsville on Saturday and Parry Sound on Sunday, bringing home a loss and a win. The loss came on Saturday against Huntsville. It was a fast-paced, aggressive start with both teams spending time in the box, but Huntsville got on the scoreboard first and led 2-0 after the first period.

Both teams continued to push in the second period and once more Huntsville found the opening, but minutes later the Storm bounced back with a pass from Jacob Haedicke to Jon Morrison that earned the Storm their first goal, making it 3-1. Seconds into the third period, Alex Wilbee's strong shot from the point slipped by the goalie to tighten the game 3-2. It may have the Olympic size ice or too little too late for the Storm, but the momentum grew for the Otters and they put two more in to take the game 5-2.

It was off to Parry Sound on Sunday. It was a close game at the start, with a scoreless first period and no penalties. There were lots of awesome chances for both teams, but Parry Sound got the first goal. The Storm Peewee AE team took control of the game with some great passes and determination that tied it up in the second period. It was early in the third period when the Storm took the lead and held it for the game, defeating Parry Sound 4-1.

It was an awesome team effort by all the boys — special mention to Josh Bellefleur, who was solid in net. Next weekend, they are on the road for a tournament in Huntsville.

The Highland Storm Peewee AE team is proudly sponsored by Tom Prentice Trucking.

Dr Ed Smolen Family Dentistry's Peewee A's traveled to Bracebridge Friday Dec 9 for the final regular season game. It was a high-spirited match, with the Bears wanting a win after the last two losses. The Storm stood strong and came home with a 4-1 victory. Matt Wilbee scored for the Storm in the first period, with assists to Jake Bishop and Mark Saville. The next goal was by Jake Bishop, unassisted. The second period saw a goal by Josh Boice, assisted by Chase Burden and Chris Thompson. The fourth goal in the third, to seal the deal, was by Max MacNaull, unassisted.

The team's second game of the weekend was in Huntsville, on Dec 11. They knew it would be a tough one and that they would need to work extra hard, especially since the team was short two players. The Storm boys delivered the hard work, but it was not enough: the first goal in the third period was by Kyle Cooper, assisted by Matt Wilbee. Marr then scored, assisted by Ethan Keefer and Mark Saville. As hard as the boys tried to tie it up, it was all over when Huntsville scored an empty netter, for a win against the Storm of 4-2.

The next game is Thursday Dec 15 in Minden against Huntsville at 6:30 pm. Come on out and cheer the boys on.

Storm Atom AEs slam Gravenhurst

Submitted by Larry Butka

It was a Storm attack from start to finish at the Haliburton arena on Sunday, as the Highland Storm Atom AE team skated and shot their way to a 15-2 win over Gravenhurst. Centre Jake O'Neill showed some sharp shooting, scoring five goals. Miki Bukta and Nigel Smith each earned three-goal hat-tricks; scoring one each were Denver Allore, James Alexander, Paul Turner and Billy Walker.

Many of the goals were from hard shots from distance or sharp angle, and one was a nice backhand shot. Tougher competition comes to Haliburton this Saturday, when the Storm Atom AE team faces Huntsville in what should be an exciting game.

Good luck to all the
Highland Storm teams from
TheHighlander



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TheHighlander Community Calendar

December 2011

Thursday – 15

- Crafty Girls Club, Art Hive, (705) 754-0021
- Community Care Christmas Lunch, Minden Legion, 12 noon to 2 pm, advance tickets only, order by December 8, \$15, (705) 457-2941, hilary@communitycarehaliburton.com
- Euchre Nights, Minden Legion Branch 636, 7:30 pm
- Bid Euchre, Community Care, Haliburton, 1 pm, for seniors 55+ or physically disabled adults 18+, Ida (705) 457-2941
- Christmas Concert, Northern Lights Pavilion, Carl Dixon & Friends, 7 pm to 9 pm, to raise money for the Haliburton Food Bank
- Friends of the Haliburton County Public Library "Friendly" Christmas Sale, Christmas book baskets and more in the Roberts Room, Dysart Library, Haliburton, 10 am to 4 pm
- Friends of the Haliburton County Public Library's "Friendly" Christmas Sale, Minden Hills Branch Library, in the Book Nook, 10 am to 4 pm, Christmas Book Baskets, library mugs full of goodies, new Friends book bag and more

Friday – 16

- Shepherd's Table Community Supper, Lakeside Baptist Church, 5:30 pm, (705) 457-2851
- Fish & Chips dinner at the Minden Legion Branch 636, 5 pm to 7 pm, John Sloan, (705) 286-1397, jicsloan@gmail.com
- Spaghetti Dinner, Wilberforce Legion Branch 624, 5 pm to 7 pm, (705) 448-2221, jandreamweaver@aol.com
- Cribbage, Community Care, Haliburton, 1 pm, for seniors 55+ or physically disabled adults 18+, Ida (705) 457-2941
- Play Pool! Wilberforce Legion Branch 624, 1:30 pm, (705) 448-2221, jandreamweaver@aol.com
- Karaoke, Minden Legion Branch 636, 7:30 pm, John Sloan, (705) 286-1397, jicsloan@gmail.com
- Jam Session, Wilberforce Legion Branch 624, 7 pm, (705) 448-2221, jandreamweaver@aol.com

Saturday – 17

- Threshold: Student Art Show & Sale, Haliburton School of the Arts, 10 am to 4 pm, tfrew@flemingc.on.ca
- MOM 2 MOM SALE, hosted by the Haliburton/Minden Moms Swap and Buy, Minden Arena, 10 am to 2 pm, fundraiser for the Highlands Community Pregnancy Care Centre in Haliburton, \$2 admission, to rent a table or for more information contact (705) 286-0111 or aaricas_24@yahoo.ca
- Haliburton County Folk Society Open Stage, Haliburton County Museum, 7:30 pm to 9 pm, \$2 admission, everyone welcome, (705) 754-3655, info@haliburtonfolk.com, www.haliburtonfolk.com

- Karaoke, Minden Legion Branch 636, 7:30 pm, John Sloan, (705) 286-1397, jicsloan@gmail.com
- The Mike & Mike Road Show Christmas Dance, Wilberforce Legion Branch 624, 8pm to close, (705) 448-2221, jandreamweaver@aol.com
- Meat Draw, Wilberforce Legion Branch 624, 1 pm (this week only), (705) 448-2221, jandreamweaver@aol.com
- 30th Annual Members' Show Closing Reception at the Agnes Jamieson Gallery Saturday, 3 pm
- Minden Hills Cultural Centre, (705) 286-2808, www.mindenculturalcentre.com
- Short Story Evenings, Dominion Hotel, Minden, 7 pm, local writers read their original short stories, everyone welcome, no charge, (705) 286-2592, marjorie.ludlow-green@sympatico.ca, www.haliburtonwriters.ca

Sunday – 18

- A Winter's Night with Wendell and Wheat, The Wild Moose, Wigamog Resort, presented by the Haliburton County Folk Society, a part of the Haliburton County Community Cooperative, 7:30 pm, tickets \$23 (\$17 for Folk Society members/youth, available at The Photoshop, Haliburton and Organic Times, Minden, or call (705) 754-3655 to reserve, for more information contact (705) 754-3436, info@yoursouthdoors.ca, www.haliburtonfolk.com
- Highlands Winds Symphony - "Around The World at Christmas", Northern Lights Performing Arts Pavilion, Haliburton, 3 pm, adults \$10, students \$5, families \$25, available at Master's Book Store, Haliburton and Pharmasave, Minden, call Andy Salvatore at (705) 457-2100 or Kelly Moore at (705) 286-3377 for more information
- NFL Football, Big Screen TV, Minden Legion Branch 636, 12:30 pm, John Sloan, (705) 286-1397, jicsloan@gmail.com

Monday – 19

- Celebrate Recovery, Lakeside Baptist Church, 7 pm to 10 pm, admin@lakesidebaptist.ca
- Cribbage Night, Minden Legion Branch, 7:30 pm
- Cloggers, Lloyd Watson Centre, Wilberforce, 7pm, \$1, all ages welcome
- Contract Bridge, Community Care, Haliburton, 1pm, for seniors 55+ or physically disabled adults 18+, Ida (705) 457-2941
- Bid Euchre – cancelled – returns January 2, 2012
- Haliburton County Table Tennis Club meets every Monday, 6 pm to 9 pm, St. George's Church, 617 Mountain Street, Haliburton. Come out for great fun, even better exercise and meet terrific people! Just bring your gym shoes – we provide everything else including Robo-Pong THE ROBOT! Mary or Jeff Martin, (705) 457-2280

Tuesday – 20

- Christmas Party with Santa, Ontario Early Years Centre, Haliburton, 10 am to 1 pm, sign up with staff or call (705) 457-2989, bring a wrapped book with your child's name on it, may also bring a healthy or fun snack to share, sign up with staff or phone (705) 457-2989, oeycomin@bellnet.ca
- Pool League, Dominion Hotel, Minden, open to all, (705) 286-5035
- Brushstrokes – Artists' Paint-Out, Highland Grove Community Centre, 10am to 4pm, bring your own supplies and a bagged lunch, Linda Middleton (705) 448-9397, info@crystalimagestudio.com

Wednesday – 21

- Parent/Tot Kindergarten every Wednesday, Haliburton Dance Arts, Maple Avenue, Haliburton, 10 am to 10:40 am, classes \$10 each, (705) 754-0007, www.haliburtondancearts.com, haliburtondance@sympatico.ca
- Baby Ballet every Wednesday, Haliburton Dance Arts, Maple Avenue, Haliburton, 10:45 am to 11:15 am, classes \$10 each, (705) 754-0007, www.haliburtondancearts.com, haliburtondance@sympatico.ca
- Christmas Potluck Party, Ontario Early Years Centre, Minden, 10 am to 1 pm, bring a wrapped book for your child to receive from Santa, also accepting donations for the Minden Food Bank, sign up by Dec 19, (705) 286-1770, oeycomin@bellnet.ca
- Art & Tea, Rails End Gallery, for adults who like to talk about art and drink tea
- Community Drumming/Rhythm Circle, Rails End Gallery, 7:30 pm to 9 pm
- Darts, Wilberforce Legion Branch 624, 7:30 pm, (705) 448-2221, jandreamweaver@aol.com
- Story Circle, Gooderham Public Library, Pine Street, Gooderham, 11:30 am, (705) 457-2241 or (705) 447-3183
- Red Hats of Haliburton County, (705) 457-9595 or (705) 754-4957, www.redhatsociety.com
- Darts, Haliburton Legion Branch 129, 7:30 pm
- Haliburton County Table Tennis Club meets every Wednesday, 1 pm to 3 pm, Minden Community Centre, 55 Parkside, Minden. Come out for great fun, even better exercise and meet terrific people! Just bring your gym shoes – we provide everything else including Robo-Pong THE ROBOT! Mary or Jeff Martin, (705) 457-2280

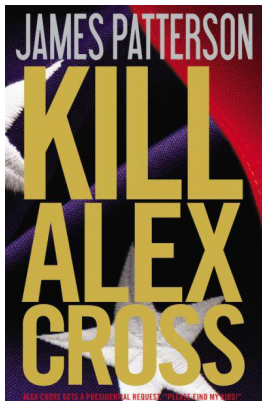
Thursday – 22

- Euchre Nights, Minden Legion Branch 636, 7:30 pm
- Bid Euchre, Community Care, Haliburton, 1 pm, for seniors 55+ or physically disabled adults 18+, Ida (705) 457-2941

DO YOU HAVE AN EVENT TO ANNOUNCE?

Email details to louise@haliburtonhighlander.ca by Mondays at noon.

Highlander books



Haliburton County's Hot Reads

The following are the top five fiction and non-fiction titles as requested at the Haliburton County Public Library for the week of December 12 - 18.

HCPL's fiction list is topped by James Patterson's latest Alex Cross thriller. Patterson is followed closely by another Haliburton County favourite, Debbie Macomber; with Christmas

nearing closer, 1225 Christmas Tree Lane has steadily gained popularity since it was released in September.

New to HCPL's non-fiction list is Wheat Belly by William Davis. In Wheat Belly, Dr. Davis claims that wheat is the single greatest contributor to obesity in the Western world. Our excess fat has nothing to do with gluttony, sloth, or a calorie-laden diet – apparently, it's due to "the whole grain wraps we eat for lunch". This is an intriguing concept, and the sudden popularity of this title suggests that Dr. Davis's anti-wheat plea may

perhaps have him following behind Dr. Atkins and Dr. Dukan, as the founder of the next big diet fad to sweep North America.

HCPL's TOP FIVE FICTION

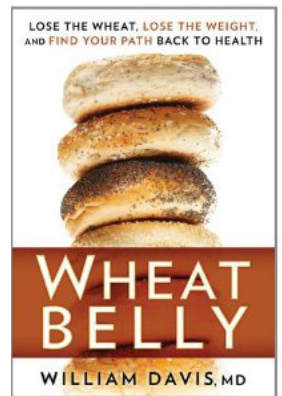
1. Kill Alex Cross by James Patterson
2. 1225 Christmas Tree Lane by Debbie Macomber
3. Zero Day by David Baldacci
4. The Drop by Michael Connelly
5. The Virgin Cure by Ami McKay

HCPL's TOP FIVE NON-FICTION

1. Wheat Belly by William Davis
2. Steve Jobs by Walter Isaacson
3. The Wealthy Barber Returns by David Chilton
4. From This Moment On by Shania Twain
5. Boomerang: Travels in the Third World by Michael Lewis

LIBRARY EVENTS

The Haliburton County Public Library presents FREE "Jolly Holiday Fun" programs, which will run Dec 28-30 and January 4-6. There will be stories, games and fun winter crafts. Visit our website at www.haliburtonlibrary.ca for times and locations.



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ANNOUNCEMENTS

JAM SESSIONS - are heating up at the Wilberforce Legion Branch 624 every Friday night at 7pm. Talented local musicians get together for an evening of fun and entertainment. Anyone playing a musical instrument is welcome to join in. We get some excellent musicians and a great audience is there to support and enjoy.

FOR RENT

UNFURNISHED 1 BEDROOM APARTMENT - for rent in Minden. Close to all amenities. No smoking/ no pets. References required. First and last month rent. Available immediately. (705) 306-0157

1 BEDROOM APARTMENT - between Minden and Haliburton, \$575 per month including utilities. First & last month deposit and references required. Please call Carmen at (705) 286-0343.

2 BEDROOM APARTMENT - just north of Minden, \$600 plus heat and hydro, electric heat. Call Mike (705) 457-5597

BUSINESS SPACE - 9' x 13', Stedman's Mall, Haliburton, within Family Hair Cutters. Call (705) 854-1200.

HELP WANTED

Evenings, weekends, fill-ins **PERSONAL ATTENDANT** assist physically disabled with daily care; responsible, honest and eager to learn; paid training period call: Robert Young (705) 286 1584

FULL TIME OFFICE WORK - applicant must be computer literate, web design experience is a plus with clerical background, good math skills, able to work under pressure, able to work weekends is a must, room for advancement. Please submit a resume and/or call for appointment at (705) 457-9434.

All December Classified ads are FREE

FOR SALE

27" ELECTROHOME TELEVISION - Flat screen (not LCD) purchased only 3 years ago from Canadian Tire. In perfect condition, with remote. Great TV for a student or for game systems. \$75 OBO. Call (705) 243-0074 or (705) 306-0614.

27" SELF-PROPELLED SNOW - thrower with cab used 1 season - \$700.00. Blue easy-lift recliner chair runs on electricity or battery - \$250.00. Call Rose Herring, 705-488-2074.

SOLID OAK DINING SUITE - in excellent condition (table 41x54" with 2 leaves, 5 chairs plus matching arm chair, buffet) - asking \$850 or best offer. Call (705) 286-1688. Please leave a message if no answer.

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INGLIS WASHER 5 years old \$150.00. **KENMORE DRYER** \$50.00. Plastic laundry tub 18" wide with taps \$25.00. All in excellent condition and working order. Call (705) 489-3327

1998 FORD WINDSTAR - 174K, Excellent operating condition. This is an ideal second car. Asking \$1200...as is. Call (705) 457-3813/ Cell (416) 894-3769.

TWO CRAFTSMAN II SNOW BLOWERS - 11 HP, 31 inch 6 forward, 2 reverse. Recently tuned up and reconditioned. \$275 each. Call Jeff (705) 286-2693

FOUR NOKIEN SNOW TIRES - 155/80 on 13 inch, 4 stud rims. (From a 1997 Tercel) Excellent condition. \$300 OBO. (705) 286-0216

YORK ELECTRIC FURNACE - new, still in box. Good for 1800 sq ft. Bought new \$1200 will sell for \$800 OBO. Phone (705) 754-2914

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51 INCH SONY PROJECTION TV - good working order but colour is not perfect. It's yours for a donation to the Minden Food Bank. (705) 286-6411

INSULATED STEEL DOOR, 32" X 80", glass etched top, 2 ½ years old, \$125. **ALUMINUM SCREEN DOOR** - 32" x 80", white, \$50. **FREE FLAT SHINGLED ROOF**, 6' x 5'. Call (705) 286-0625.

MAX 4 WHEELER, only 6-8 KM, \$3800 firm, (705) 447-2149.

All December Classified ads are FREE



Invites you to register for the winter curling session.

New Adult Curlers get \$40.00 off the regular price of \$170.00. Curl as often as you like. Leagues run M-F days and evenings. Curling begins Tuesday, January 2nd, 2012.

Registration forms are due December 20, 2011 and are available at the curling club.

There will be a free "beginners" Clinic on Saturday, January 7th, 2012



Have fun, meet friends, keep fit, stay active!

For more information call Bob McNaul 705-457-1872



An Invitation to participate in a visioning session for the Dysart Municipal Cultural Plan

The Council of the Corporation of the Municipality of Dysart et al invites interested persons to participate in a visioning session for the Dysart Municipal Cultural Plan.

This is an economic development plan, which is focused on arts, culture and heritage.

The approved plan will be implemented through the actions of the Municipality and supported and advanced by the actions of our community partners and stakeholders.

Date: Thursday, January 19th, 2012

Time: 2:00 pm to 5:00 pm

Location: The Great Hall, Fleming College

1297 College Drive

Haliburton, Ontario

To participate in this session, please pre-register with the Municipality prior to Friday, January 13, 2012, by calling (705) 457-1740.

For further information, please contact Patricia Martin, Director of Planning and Development, during regular office hours (8:30 am - 4:30 pm, Monday to Friday).

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what's on STAGE THIS SUMMER?



Colours in the Storm

screenplay by Alasdair Beaton

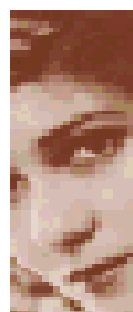
Colours in the Storm is the story of Tom Thomson, one of Canada's best loved painters. But Thomson is perhaps as famous for the controversy surrounding his death as he is for the strength of his paintings. He died in mysterious circumstances in the wilderness of Canoe Lake. The musical is filled with lively and haunting melodies evocative of the beauty of the Highlands scene which one wants to beg to realize his own potential.



ARSENIC & Old Lace

screenplay by Joseph's Humouring

Meet Abby and Martha Brewster, the charming and innocent ladies who operate a boarding house, available for elderly gentlemen. The two spinster sisters interview the potential boarders to ensure they will be socially and religiously "acceptable" roomers and then... well, perhaps you'll have to discover for yourself. Meet General Danmyer, who believes he is Teddy Roosevelt, unwittingly ensnared in their schemes.



Sweetheart

The Mary Pickford Story
a one woman musical by Dean Racy

The dark side of celebrity... a new technology which changed the way we see the world. The Canadian who came to dominate an industry. The story of silent film star Mary Pickford. Hollywood in the 1920's was a one-woman show and one of Canada's own was the number one game in town. It is time when everyone wanted "cute", with big world map Toronto-born Gladys Smith from sky rocketing through the ranks to become the most famous face on the picture set.



Steel Magnolias

screenplay by Robert Morley

The essential story of friendship and trust, Steel Magnolias serves up a slice of life that is warm and comforting as mother's apple with a heaping side of laughter in the world of Truitt's local home-grown beauty salon, six very different women come together to share their secrets, fears and love for one another while engaging the audience in hysterical, religiously gossipy.



Within Reach

screenplay by Sam Gordon

This performance, created by the Highlands Summer Festival, is a poignant and sometimes hilarious look at the history of education for young women. It is a collective work by young performers of Haliburton County, a wise and thoughtful combination of dance, theatre and music, explores the journey for women as they look for an education "equal to that of their brothers" and celebrate where they are today.

Opera, Opera Opera

Master Classes

An opportunity to hear what makes a great opera performance even better as experienced opera artists participate receive a professional lesson from an opera professional.

Richard Margison and Friends

A fund-raising concert featuring a variety of outstanding Musical Professionals at the Northern Lights Performing Arts Pavilion in Haliburton. This is an annual fund-raiser for the Highlands Opera Studio.

Excerpto Camerata

The professional in the Highlands Opera Studio present some of the best loved works from the world of opera. Hear today's artists and receive the best of opera from famous operas from around the world. A 10-week program for all ages in the three concert series concert in May, June and July with The Forest Festival and to be held at the fabulous Carleton Place Theatre on Lake Simcoe in the heart of the Forest.

la tragédie de camille

After the success of the greatest French dramatist of the 19th century, adapted Massé's most popular opera and depicts a more intense and immediate tale of the doomed Camille. La Tragédie de Camille tells the story of the psychological evolution of the opera's principal characters.

The Magic Flute

Mozart's thrilling and magical opera

When a prince wanders into a strange land, he is asked by the king of the land to marry his daughter, Pamina, who has been imprisoned by a tyrant, Sarastro. To aid him in his quest, the king gives the prince a magic flute and sends him along the magical bird river, Pamina. Throughout the fantastical tale, there are legends, magic, and a love story, and a tale of the good and evil of the world. The wonderful music of Mozart.

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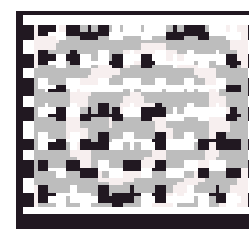
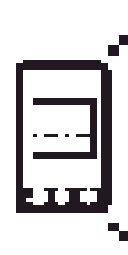
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Anglican Church, Haliburton and the Magic
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